REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 14 are amended. No new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks and above amendments, Applicants respectfully request the favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-17.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiguro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,143,445) and further in view of Chou (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,444). The Examiner takes the position that the combination of the Ishiguro and Chou teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 1-5. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ishiguro discloses an information processing apparatus having a storage means for storing content data encrypted with an encryption key, a holding means for holding management information associated with the content data stored in the storage means, a calculation means for performing a predetermined calculation on the basis of the encryption key and a control means for comparing the result of the calculation performed by the calculation means with a previous calculation result stored in the memory means and controlling the use of the content data stored in the storage means in accordance with the result of the comparison.

Chou discloses communications between a plurality of computers which are intercoupled or network which uses password protection in combination with a special hardware taken which is used to generate a one-time random session ciphering key.

It is submitted that the combination of the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, the cited references fail to teach or suggest said database being encrypted using a unique encryption key and the encryption key being derived from a predetermined value that uniquely identifies an authorized location for storing said database.

The Examiner states that Chou discloses the capability of disclosing the encryption key that is derived from a predetermined value. Applicants submit that Chou does not cure the deficiencies of Ishiguro. Specifically, Chou discloses that a special hardware token is used to generate a one-time random session ciphering key. In contrast to having a random one time key, the claimed invention provides a unique encryption that is not used only one time. Furthermore, this unique encryption key is then uniquely identifies an authorized location for storing the database. In other words, the cited references disclose an encryption key that is generated new every time it is required. As a result, the encryption key disclosed by the cited references is a one-time random encryption key, whereas in the claimed invention, the unique encryption key is randomly generated but it is specified to the specific location for storing database. Therefore, it is submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest said database being encrypted using a unique encryption key and the encryption key is derived from a predetermined value that uniquely identifies an authorized location for storing said database. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2-9, 11-13, and 15-17 are dependent upon claims 1, 10, and 14. It is submitted that for at least the reasons mentioned above, claims 2-9, 11-13, and 15-17 recite patentable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-9, 11-13, and 15-17.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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